Dean’s Council Agenda (Thursday, April 8th, 2021)
4:30 pm CST

- Voting on new amendment to the bylaws: allocate specific portion of general funds to GRIT
  Idea is to have GRIT able to plan the year's activities in advance rather than submit a budget from scratch at the beginning of every year
  Ross & Jimmy (GRIT reps) -- there will be a new team this year (immigrants, international students), planning to allocate as much to that team as to the existing 4 teams. So expect an increase in spending.
  Concerns that GRIT hasn't spent the budget allocated yet for this year. And now is requesting more money than this year. (Got 2500 allocation, now asking to more than double that to 5500)
  -- weird year for events spending because of COVID restrictions on events -- GRIT hasn't been spending up to the normal level, but expect this to return to normal next year.
  -- it might make sense to treat this as a test year, since we still don't have a lot of data on what's "normal" yearly spending by GRIT & last 2 years have been anomalous bc COVID.
  Also unclear whether we would be voting to change the amount allocated to GRIT each year, when we take up the vote to approve funding?
  -- amount of money Dean's Council gets, and amount that GRIT hopes to spend, might each change every year. So GRIT would still need to submit an approximate budget and we would still need to vote, potentially change the amount.
  -- we updated the amendment language to clarify that the amount might change each year.
  Final concern -- would GRIT get the money all at once at the beginning of the year? This year, allocations have been quarterly. It would be a big potential drain if DC only gets quarterly allocations but GRIT gets allocation all at the beginning of the year.
  -- we could have the allocation mechanism be the same as how DC is getting the allocations. So if DC gets quarterly allocations again next year, GRIT would get a quarterly allocation as well.

anonymous voting -- majority voted in favor of the amendment to the bylaws as updated during the meeting.

- Voting on Faculty Marshal
  2 faculty members were proposed: Jason MacLean and Rick Fehon
  Goal is to have a faculty member who has been involved in grad education and would be known to many of the graduating students. They walk with the students at graduation and give a toast at the graduation dinner.
  Background on the candidates -- there's no bad option
  anonymous voting -- majority voted for Rick Fehon
• Welcome new members!
• Dean’s Council Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month at 4:30 pm CST
  • Upcoming meetings scheduled for May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12
• Updating the DC listserv
  • If you are interested in transitioning out of your role as a representative, please let us know so we can find a replacement
  • Member list is on website: https://voices.uchicago.edu/deanscouncilbsd/
• Dean’s Council Google Drive Folder
  https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/12r9A6xO1Iia1oMeEOZ74OkOnqOhzWluX

• Mira - Community Service Update
  • Volunteering at the Chicago Food Depository for Spring Quarter
    Confirmed that local Hyde Park Depository should work for a volunteer site as well!
    Tomorrow will send out a call for volunteers for both Greater Chicago and Hyde Park food depositories.

• Brittany & Sarah - Cultural Co-Chairs
  • Second City Event
    Second City event w gift bags -- sold all the tickets to that event. They don't have any other events listed yet

• Sandra - Newsletter Update
  Send Sandra any updates for the newsletter!

• Meytal & Rosy - Treasury Update
  Everything is up to date on the spreadsheet! Keep handing in reimbursements form.
  Melissa still has outstanding charges on the GEMS card. Send her your receipts in addition to submitting the reimbursement form on the DC website.

• Jimmy and Ross - GRIT representatives
  Teams planning spring events. Not sure given current COVID outbreak among under grads whether the event structure will change or not for the Spring Quarter...
  -- Diversity retreat coming up this month -- everyone is invited! Register for the retreat if interested. Dr. Valerie Jarrett = keynote

• Martin & Hannah - Coffee hour (virtual)
Last time we had talked about ice coffee/tea -- Martin checked with the manager. Agreed that these all have different prices, but it would be okay to have a price in the middle and be able to use the vouchers for all the different beverages.
-- will start distributing vouchers next week for the Spring Q

- Amruta, Kiseok, and Yichen - Travel Fund
- Astra - Website
  Updated the website yesterday & today -- all the newsletters are now there, meeting minutes are up to date.
  -- There's a new volunteer tab where people can contact Mira to volunteer for the current events!
- Alexis and Sophia - GC
  Lots of events happening -- no specific DC updates
  Financial wellness events -- info to come on getting reimbursements for tax prep software
- Soo Ji - Equipment Library
  Library is up and running
- Sports Chair: Open position available
- Program representative updates (how is your program doing/any ideas for activities/anything that DC can help with?)
  Henna workshop proposed as an event -- pay the henna artist $75 for virtual workshop, and pay for henna cones.
  Is that event okay, and could we submit receipts for henna reimbursement, a paypal/venmo to the artist?
  -- we recommend GEMS card to pay for the cones rather than reimbursement
  -- the paint night people were an arts organization we brought in & paid for a workshop event... might be similar.
  -- easier if there's a business side - we can pay them more easily as a company/business rather than an individual.